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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/870,405	05/30/2001	Miyuki Sasaki	YAMAP0763US	7470

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EXAMINER
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LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2161

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/870,405

Applicant(s)

SASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Etienne P. LeRoux

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

*Claim Status*

Claims 32-40 are pending. Claims 1-31 have been cancelled. Claims 32-40 are rejected as detailed below.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 32 and 34-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereafter AAPA) in view of US Pat No 6,366,907 issued to Fanning et al (hereafter Fanning).

**Claims 32 and 35-39:**

AAPA discloses:

a data recording area in which a lead-in area and a volume space are allocated in advance [Fig 13, 108] ,

wherein an advanced VAT structure area is allocated in the volume space [Fig 13, 122],  
advanced VAT information for managing a relationship between virtual addresses each indicating an address in a virtual address space and logical addresses each indicating an address in a logical address space is recorded in the advanced VAT structure area [paragraph 20]

AAPA discloses the elements of the claimed invention as noted above but does not disclose a file structure which is indispensable for searching all files recorded in the information

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recording medium is assigned to at least one of the virtual addresses. Fanning discloses a file structure which is indispensable for searching all files recorded in the information recording medium is assigned to at least one of the virtual addresses [col 9, lines 1-25]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify AAPA to include a file structure which is indispensable for searching all files recorded in the information recording medium is assigned to at least one of the virtual addresses as taught by Fanning for the purpose of searching from a plurality of different types of data objects [Fanning, abstract].

**Claim 34:**

The combination of AAPA and Fanning discloses the elements of claim 32 as noted above and furthermore discloses wherein the advanced VAT structure area is allocated at an end of an accessible area [AAPA, Fig 13, 130].

Claims 33 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of AAPA and Fanning and further in view of US Pat No 4,922,415 issued to Hemdal (hereafter Hemdal).

**Claim 33:**

The combination of AAPA and Fanning discloses the elements of claim 32 as noted above but does not disclose wherein the basic structure information includes a file set descriptor and a file entry of a root directory; and the advanced VAT information includes a first VAT entry for assigning a logical address of the file set descriptor to a virtual address 0, and a second VAT entry for assigning a logical address of the file entry of the root directory to a virtual address 1. Hemdal discloses a virtual address of 0 and a virtual address of 1 [Fig 20, col 24, line

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7 and col 24, line 30]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above combination of references to include wherein the basic structure information includes a file set descriptor and a file entry of a root directory; and the advanced VAT information includes a first VAT entry for assigning a logical address of the file set descriptor to a virtual address 0, and a second VAT entry for assigning a logical address of the file entry of the root directory to a virtual address 1 based on the teaching of Hemdal for the purpose of commencing entries in a table at a logical starting point.

**Claim 40:**

The combination of AAPA and Fanning discloses the elements of claim 39 as noted above but does not disclose wherein the basic structure information includes a file set descriptor and a file entry of a root directory; and the advanced VAT information includes a first VAT entry for assigning a logical address of the file set descriptor to a virtual address 0, and a second VAT entry for assigning a logical address of the file entry of the root directory to a virtual address 1. Hemdal discloses a virtual address of 0 and a virtual address of 1 [Fig 20, col 24, line 7 and col 24, line 30]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above combination of references to include wherein the basic structure information includes a file set descriptor and a file entry of a root directory; and the advanced VAT information includes a first VAT entry for assigning a logical address of the file set descriptor to a virtual address 0, and a second VAT entry for assigning a logical address of the file entry of the root directory to a virtual address 1 based on the teaching of Hemdal for the purpose of commencing entries in a table at a logical starting point.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 32-40 have been considered and found partially persuasive but are now moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne P. LeRoux whose telephone number is (571) 272-4022. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Etienne LeRoux

1/31/2006

